



BETWEEN THE LINES: PEACE & THE WRITING EXPERIENCE

Silk Routes Session
July 16-July 30, 2016
Ages 16-19

Between the Lines is a two-week creative writing and cultural exchange summer program that is in its ninth year and will for the first time offer a special Silk Routes session that brings together young writers from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Maldives, Bangladesh, and the United States. The program is hosted by the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa and sponsored by grants from the South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau of the U.S. Department of State. The University of Iowa is located in Iowa City, the only UNESCO Creative City of Literature in North America, as well as home to the Iowa Writers' Workshop. This creative environment inspires students to grow as writers while also providing them opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogues on creative writing and literature.

Selected participants attend courses each day that are designed to both increase knowledge of world literatures and improve their craft of writing, including a literature seminar and a writing workshop. Although the IWP typically hosts workshops in students' native languages, this is impossible for the Silk Routes session due to the number of languages spoken. For this reason, the entire program will be conducted in English, although ample space will be provided for participants to honor, teach, and utilize other spoken/written languages, including a collaborative translation project. Classes are taught by prize-winning poets and writers from the U.S. and abroad, who are also experienced creative writing teachers. Extracurricular events and nightly activities allow students to expand their understanding of other students and cultures while also giving them the opportunity to explore the local community and its people. Participants live with a matched roommate from a different country in University of Iowa dormitories that are gender-separated according to floor. Dormitories are supervised by BTL counselors, who are also writers, and ensure a safe and fun dorm experience. International applicants must be proficient in English in all forms (reading, writing, and speaking). If granted entry into the program, all travel, lodging, and meals are provided.

We are looking for talented, curious, and enthusiastic writers of fiction and/or poetry who meet the following criteria:

- Will be 16 – 19 years old by the start of the program on July 16, 2016.
- Able to engage and thrive in an atmosphere that brings together different kinds of people and worldviews.

The application cycle is now open!

Please send your applications to:

Embassy Contact: Parveen Elias

Email: EliaSPX@state.gov

For further information, please visit <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/between-the-lines/how-to-apply>

DEADLINE is March 8, 2016

Application requirements:

- Application Form: <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/sites/iwp/files/BTLStudentIntlApplicationForm2016.pdf>
- 6-8 pages of creative work in English: poetry or fiction of any topic you choose.
- 1 page essay describing other language(s) you speak/write and how you would like to see that language and your literary tradition integrated into BTL. In sum, what do you hope other participants might learn about your language, literature, and culture?
- 2-5 pages of creative work in English in response to **ONE** of the following writing prompts:
 - During breakfast you are startled by a heavy knock at the door. It is someone who demands something from you. Who is it, what does he/she need, and what happens next? Write a short story or poem.
 - Write a short story or poem that contains three (3) of the following objects and one (1) place:
 - Objects: old bicycle, uncomfortable couch, leaking canoe, sleeping puppy, love note, truth serum
 - Places: cruise ship, forest with a lake, empty street at dawn, deserted dance club
- A statement of purpose (250 words maximum, in English) describing why creative writing is important in your life, and what you hope to learn at our program in Iowa.